



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 5449***

LCO No. 1547

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES  
BY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADVANCED  
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-503 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Any police officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a  
4 person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or  
5 herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care  
6 and treatment, may take such person into custody and take or cause  
7 such person to be taken to a general hospital for emergency  
8 examination under this section. The officer shall execute a written  
9 request for emergency examination detailing the circumstances under  
10 which the person was taken into custody, and such request shall be left  
11 with the [facility] hospital. The person shall be examined [within] not  
12 later than twenty-four hours after being taken to the hospital and shall  
13 not be held for more than seventy-two hours at the hospital unless  
14 committed under section 17a-502 of the 2008 supplement to the general  
15 statutes.

16 (b) Upon application by any person to the court of probate having  
17 jurisdiction in accordance with section 17a-497, alleging that any  
18 respondent has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or  
19 herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care  
20 and treatment in a hospital for psychiatric disabilities, such court may  
21 issue a warrant for the apprehension and bringing before it of such  
22 respondent and examine such respondent. If the court determines that  
23 there is probable cause to believe that such [person] respondent has  
24 psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or herself or others  
25 or gravely disabled, the court shall order that such respondent be  
26 taken to a general hospital for examination. The [person] respondent  
27 shall be examined [within] not later than twenty-four hours after being  
28 taken to the hospital and shall not be held for more than seventy-two  
29 hours at the hospital unless committed under section 17a-502 of the  
30 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

31 (c) Any psychologist licensed under chapter 383 who has reasonable  
32 cause to believe that a person has psychiatric disabilities and is  
33 dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in  
34 need of immediate care and treatment, may issue an emergency  
35 certificate in writing that authorizes and directs that such person be  
36 taken to a general hospital for purposes of a medical examination. The  
37 person shall be examined [within] not later than twenty-four hours  
38 and after being taken to the hospital shall not be held for more than  
39 seventy-two hours at the hospital unless committed under section 17a-  
40 502 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

41 (d) Any clinical social worker licensed under chapter 383b or  
42 advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378 who (1)  
43 has received a minimum of eight hours of specialized training in the  
44 conduct of direct evaluations [under this subsection] as a member of  
45 any mobile crisis team, jail diversion program, crisis intervention team,  
46 advanced supervision and intervention support team, or assertive case  
47 management program operated by or under contract with the  
48 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and (2) based

49 upon the direct evaluation of a person, has reasonable cause to believe  
 50 that such person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to  
 51 himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of  
 52 immediate care and treatment, may issue an emergency certificate in  
 53 writing that authorizes and directs that such person be taken to a  
 54 general hospital for purposes of a medical examination. The person  
 55 shall be examined [within] not later than twenty-four hours after being  
 56 taken to the hospital and shall not be held for more than seventy-two  
 57 hours at the hospital unless committed under section 17a-502 of the  
 58 2008 supplement to the general statutes. The Commissioner of Mental  
 59 Health and Addiction Services shall collect and maintain statistical and  
 60 demographic information pertaining to emergency certificates issued  
 61 under this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-503
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To permit licensed clinical social workers and advanced practice registered nurses who have received either specialized crisis intervention team training or advanced supervision and intervention support team training to issue emergency certificates directing that a person be taken to a general hospital for purposes of a medical examination.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*